

**January 26, 2012**

**To whom it may concern,**

**I am writing to you as a stakeholder in the U.S. albacore industry.**

**Over the past 52 years as a fisherman, I have witnessed an invasion of the Canadian fleet in our waters. This fleet has expanded in both number of vessels and tonnage capacity. This expansion far out weighs U.S. tuna boats. Further, Canadian vessels can unload their catch in a port to a U.S. buyer and fill the U.S. markets and return to their home country. This is squeezing our tuna boats out of the area. We find the price is now lower or the buyers leave us hanging as the markets are full. Another point I wish to bring to your attention is a fisherman's "code of ethics". In the U.S., a tuna fishing boat respects a healthy area of water surrounding a boat over a school of fish. Canadian vessels hone in on our boats in an intrusive manner that forces us to relocate for safety reasons. As this is the third and final year of this treaty, I request that you urge to dissolve or amend this treaty in its present format. We should have some regulations in place that respect the numbers of vessels, tonnage capacity and safety issues.**

**I hope to see a change in these issues which I consider very important because the Canadians are one step ahead of us. Give the U.S. fishing fleet a fair chance to survive. I would like to see my grand kids fish as we do and I don't see this possible if we allow the Canadians to continue to fish in our waters with their fleet that is increasing in size every season. Please use a little common sense on these very important decisions.**

**Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my concerns. If you care about our U.S. albacore industry, actions must be taken now so we viable.**

**Sincerely,  
Paul M. Hawkins  
Captain Sea Chase  
San Diego, CA**